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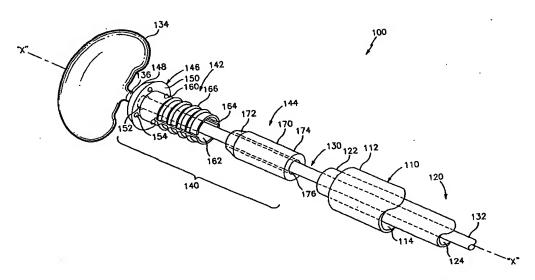
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ANASTOMOSIS INCLUDING ANNULAR JOINING MEMBER



(57) Abstract: Apparatus and method for performing surgical anastomotic procedures are disclosed herein. The apparatus for performing the surgical anastomotic procedure includes a tubular sleeve (110) defining an axial lumen (114) therethrough, a positioning tube (120) defining an axial lumen (124) therethrough, an expansion assembly (130) having a tubular body (132) and an expandable tip (134) operatively coupled to a distal end thereof, and an anchoring assembly (140). The positioning tube is preferably configured and adapted to be slidably received within the axial lumen of the tubular sleeve.

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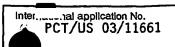
NAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US 03/11661

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATERIAL TO THE PROPERTY AND THE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY AND THE PR
According to International Patent Classification
B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classifical IPC 7 A61B
Documentation searched other than minimum

IPC 7 A61B17/11									
According to	International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classifica	ation and IPC							
B. FIELDS									
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 A61B									
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched									
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)									
EPO-Internal									
C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT								
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rel	evant passages	Relevant to claim No.						
A	US 5 540 701 A (SHARKEY HUGH R E 30 July 1996 (1996-07-30) figures 18-20	ET AL)	1,22						
Furt	ther documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed	in annex.						
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority clalm(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed		The later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to linv							
	actual completion of the international search 3 December 2003	12/01/2004	en en Toholt						
		Authorized officer							
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Hamann, J							





Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)							
. This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:							
1. X Claims Nos.: 17-21 because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely: Rule 39.1(iv) PCT - Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery							
2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:							
3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).							
Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)							
This International Searching Authority found multiple Inventions in this international application, as follows:							
As all required additional search fees were timety paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all							
searchable claims.							
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.							
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:							
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:							
Remark on Protest The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest. No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.							

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

tion on patent family members

US 03/11661

Patent document cited in search report	Ť	Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date	
US 5540701	Α	30-07-1996	NONE			

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